

BOOK REVIEW

Stuckey, Ronald L. 1992. *Women Botanists of Ohio: Born before 1900*. 67 pp. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio State University, pb. Copies available from Ronald L. Stuckey, RLS Creations, P.O. Box 3010, Columbus, OH 43210. (Priced \$11.50, includes mailing.)

Dr. Ronald L. Stuckey and the late Dr. Emmanuel D. Rudolph, botanists at Ohio State University, are interested both in botanical history and in the role of women in botanical science. Dr. Rudolph has written about the broader aspects of this subject; Dr. Stuckey is an expert on early mid-west botanical history and the part women have played. This collection of biographies was published for the May, 1992 meeting of The Council on Botanical and Horticultural Libraries held at Columbus, Ohio.

Librarians and historians of science, especially, appreciate such a gathering of scattered source material under one cover. Dr. Stuckey started to gather data on early Ohio botanists when he came to Ohio State in 1965. In 1973, he wrote a twenty-page biography and bibliography for the *Michigan Botanist* of Ohio's Dr. Emma Lucy Braun, one of our country's most eminent ecologists and botanists. The theme for the Ohio Academy of Science meeting in 1982 was "Women in Science." Dr. Stuckey presented a paper on fourteen women botanists born before 1900 who had made significant contributions. His continued research on this subject culminates in this book which is dedicated to the memory of two younger Ohio women botanists with distinguished teaching careers: Dr. Janice Carson Beatley (1919-87) and Dr. Jane Cynthia (McLoughlin) Decker (1935-88).

In the United States, before the beginning of the twentieth century, some 1454 women were active in various aspects of botany, according to Dr. Rudolph. Of fifty-five Ohio women in this list, Dr. Stuckey has selected eighteen for his book. His sketches include a picture, if available, biographical information, education, and mention of their most important publications and awards. Some of the women were professional botanists, some were amateurs, but all published papers and/or books on the results of their studies. Many were students of William Kellerman who came to Ohio State in 1891 (died 1908), and John H. Schaffner who was on the faculty from 1897 to 1931. Two of the women

married these professors. Stella Victoria (Dennis) Kellerman (1855–1936) assisted her husband with illustrations for his books, and in research. Independently she published her own research on the morphology of plants and flowers, notably on the tassel of the corn plant. Mabel (Brockett) Schaffner (1869–1906) assisted her husband and also did independent research. Her paper on the embryology of shepherd's purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*) is a classic.

The first woman botanist in Ohio was Eliza Griscom Wheeler (1817–50) who married William Sterling Sullivant, the distinguished bryologist, in 1834. She worked alongside her husband in the field, in the herbarium and in the office, and illustrated many of his books. By the mid- to late 1800's a number of women had become involved in collecting and in publishing local floras. The best known of this group was Harriet Louise Keeler (1844–1921), a teacher for forty years who wrote seven semi-popular books on northeastern native plants including *The Wild Flowers of Early Spring*, *Our Native Trees*, *Our Northern Shrubs*, and *The Wayside Flowers of Summer*.

Emily Katherine (Dooris) Sharp (1846–1935) often accompanied her doctor husband on his medical rounds by carriage in Madison County and developed a keen interest in collecting and studying plants and their habitats. She published her observations in a small book, *Summer in a Bog*, in 1913. Her chapter on the activities of earlier women botanists in Ohio was the only real source of such information until Dr. Stuckey's book. She added some 500 specimens to the herbarium under Dr. Kellerman's direction.

Dr. Clara Gertrude Weishaupt (1898–1991) was an outstanding teacher of general botany and local flora at Ohio State. She developed *The Vascular Plants of Ohio* (3rd ed., 1970), for her courses. She contributed the section on Gramineae in Braun's *Vascular Flora of Ohio, The Monocotyledonae*, Vol. 1. Concurrently with her teaching she was curator of the Ohio State University Herbarium, and was instrumental in reorganizing and revitalizing it after World War II.

Dr. Stuckey concludes his book with a six-page tribute to Dr. E. Lucy Braun, most famous for her pioneering studies in forest ecology and author of *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North America* (1950), *Woody Plants of Ohio* (1961) and *Vascular Flora of Ohio: The Monocotyledonae*, Vol. 1. There is an eleven-page bibliog-

raphy, a summary and additional statistics. Besides the botanical information in the book, Dr. Stuckey has included a set of the fourteen calendars which make up the Gregorian Calendar. These calendars, seven for even years and seven for odd years, are printed on the same pages as the portraits of the botanists. An explanation of the calendars is given in pages viii and ix of the Introduction. They are included because "TIME is the most important thing in your life." One might add that all eighteen of these women obviously made the very best use of time in their very full and accomplished lives.

MARY M. WALKER
14 CHESTNUT ST.
CONCORD, MA 01742